

In the Specification:

On page 1, after the title insert the following:

RELATED APPLICATION

This is a U.S. National Phase Application under 35 USC 371 of International Application PCT/EP2004/001338, filed on February 10, 2005.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

On page 1, before line 7, insert the following heading:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

On page 2, before line 1, insert the following heading:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

On page 2, amend the paragraph beginning on line 1 as follows:

~~Consequently, a first subject~~ One aspect of the invention relates to a rubber composition based on at least a diene elastomer, a reinforcing filler, a plasticizing system and a cross-linking system, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said plasticizing system comprises (phr = parts by weight per hundred parts of elastomer):

between 5 and 35 phr of an MES or TDAE oil;

between 5 and 35 phr of a polylimonene resin.

On page 2, amend the paragraph beginning on line 9 as follows:

~~The subject~~ Another aspect of the invention is ~~also directed to~~ a process for preparing a rubber composition having an improved resistance to abrasion and to cuts, this composition ~~being~~ based on a diene elastomer, a reinforcing filler, a plasticizing system and a cross-linking system. The ~~-, said process comprising~~ comprises the following steps:

incorporating in a diene elastomer, during a first step referred to as "non-productive", at least a reinforcing filler and a plasticizing system, by thermomechanically kneading the entire mixture, in one or more stages, until a maximum temperature of between 110°C and 190°C is reached;

cooling the entire mixture to a temperature of less than 100°C;

then incorporating, during a second step referred to as "productive", the cross-linking system;

kneading the entire mixture until a maximum temperature of less than 110°C is reached,

~~and being characterized in that~~ wherein said plasticizing system comprises:

between 5 and 35 phr of an MES or TDAE oil;

between 5 and 35 phr of a polylimonene resin.

On page 2, amend the paragraphs beginning on lines 29 and 34 as follows:

~~The invention also relates, per se,~~ Another aspect of the invention is directed to a plasticizing system usable for the plasticizing of a diene rubber composition, said system comprising in combination an MES or TDAE oil and a polylimonene resin. ~~-, and also~~ A further aspect of the invention is directed to the use of such a system for the plasticizing of a diene rubber composition.

~~The subject~~ Another aspect of the invention is ~~also~~ the use of a composition according to an embodiment of the invention for the manufacture of a finished article or a semi-finished product made of rubber intended for any suspension system of a motor vehicle, such as tires, internal safety supports for tires, wheels, rubber springs, elastomeric joints, or other suspension and anti-vibration elements.

On page 2, amend the paragraph beginning on line 39 through page 3, line 5 as follows:

~~A particular subject~~ Another aspect of the invention is the use of a composition according to an embodiment of the invention for the manufacture of tires or semi-finished products made of rubber intended for these tires, these semi-finished products preferably ~~being~~ selected from the group consisting of treads, crown reinforcement plies, sidewalls, carcass reinforcement plies, beads, protectors, underlayers, rubber blocks and other internal rubbers, in particular decoupling rubbers, intended to provide the connection or the interface between the aforementioned zones of the tires.

On page 3, amend the paragraphs beginning on lines 7 and 11 as follows:

~~A more particular subject~~ Another aspect of the invention is the use of a composition according to an embodiment of the invention for the manufacture of a tire tread having improved resistance to cuts and to chipping.

~~The subject~~ Another aspect of the invention is also the finished articles and semi-finished products made of rubber themselves, in particular tires and semi-finished products for tires, when they comprise an elastomeric composition according to an embodiment of the invention. The

tires according to an embodiment of the invention are in particular intended for passenger vehicles and for two-wheeled vehicles (motorcycles, bicycles), industrial vehicles selected from among vans, "heavy vehicles" - i.e. subway trains, buses, road transport machinery (lorries, tractors, trailers), off-road vehicles - agricultural or construction machinery, aircraft, and other transport or handling vehicles.

On page 3, delete the paragraph beginning on line 19 through line 20 in its entirety.

On page 3, after line 20, insert the following heading:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS